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1939

FINE
PEONIESENGLISH
VIOLETS

“ROCKFORD PEONIES”

Walton E. Milliman

170 Division St.

Rockford, Michigan

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 1

Plant Peonies for Permanence

To Our Friends Old And New

“At the insistence of our friends”, as the politicians would put it, we are presenting this list of fine peonies for fall planting.

But, a descriptive list of peonies has its limitations.

For example, — to describe Mme. Emile Galle and Phyllis Kelway as rose pink peonies is an illustration of supreme futility! These varieties are so different in color, form and habit of growth that the use of the term rose pink is almost disheartening. These varieties are so fine and so distinctive that they almost lose their charm when one has to rely on mere words and printer's ink to convey a picture.

Regardless of the inadequacies of a printed list of peonies, these descriptive terms have an official standing. They are approved as standard terms by the Am. Peony Society. At any rate the Am. Peony Society cannot be accused of carelessness with superlatives or gross exaggeration. Even the casual reader of our list will agree that modesty and restraint reach an all time high in the use of these standard color descriptions.

In growing peonies, three things

we do religiously. We plant the root division so the eyes or buds are one and a half inches under the surface of the ground. We use fertilizer sparingly. A small handful of bone meal sprinkled around each plant in the fall of the year, and worked well into the ground is sufficient. Too little fertilizer is better than too much. During the blooming season we urge all growers to do as we have done for fifteen years, — cut some of the buds as they get soft and fluffy and let them open in the house. For real satisfaction with peonies we urge you to follow our little formula. It will produce results.

SCORES ARE ONLY RELATIVE

Years ago, the American Peony Society started the idea of rating peonies on a percentage basis using 10 as the standard of perfection. The figures preceding the name of the variety represent the opinion of the national society when the vote was taken, but the scoring is a distinct aid in weeding out varieties of inferior quality. We grow only four varieties carrying a rate of less than 8.0, but these certainly possess enough merit to warrant a place in our gardens.

Double Peonies of High Quality

8.5—ADOLPHE ROUSSEAU. Dark, lustrous red shaded maroon showing yellow stamens. ----- \$.50	9.0—LA FRANCE. Late violet rose ----- .75
8.8—ALSACE - LORRAINE. White tinted cream and buff. ----- .50	8.6—LA LORRAINE. Cream white ----- 2.00
8.1—ASA GRAY. Pale lilac dotted ----- .60	7.5—LA TULIPE. Lilac white .40
8.7—AUGUSTE DESSERT. Pink. Petals edged with a silvery border. ----- 1.25	9.9—LE CYGNE. Milk white - .90
8.7—AVALANCHE, Cream white ----- .40	8.8—LILLIAN GUMM. Late rose pink ----- .75
9.0—BARONESS SCHROEDER. Flesh white ----- .50	9.0—LONGFELLOW. Cherry red ----- .75
8.7—BRAND'S MAGNIFICENT. Deep red ----- .75	8.7—LUETTA PFEIFER, Hy- drangea pink ----- .75
8.7—CHERRY HILL. Deep garnet. Very early and blooms in clusters ----- .50	8.4—MARGUERITE GERARD. Flesh pink ----- .50
8.1—DUCHESS DE NEMOURS. White ----- .35	8.3—MARIE JACQUIN. Semi double pink. Water lily type. ----- .50
7.6—EDULIS SUPERBA. Early. Dark pink ----- .35	8.8—MARCONI. Deep pink. High crown ----- 2.00
9.1—ELIZABETH B. BROWN- ING. Pure white ----- .60	9.1—MARTHA BULLOCK. Very large rose pink. A spectacular variety ----- .75
8.7—ELWOOD PLEAS. Pale rose pink ----- .50	8.7—MARY BRAND. Deep red. Blooms freely in clusters .50
8.0—ETTA. Deep shell pink-- .50	9.0—MARY WOODBURY SHAYLOR. Clear pink -- .75
8.6—EUGENIE VERDIER. Rose pink ----- .50	9.0—MILTON HILL. Shell pink .75
8.4—FELIX CROUSSE. Brilli- ant crimson ----- .35	8.5—MME. EMILE GALLE. Rose pink ----- .50
9.3—FESTIVA MAXIMA. White flecked red ----- .35	8.9—MME. EMILE LEMOINE. White ----- .50
9.1—FRANCES WILLARD. Large white. Few petals edged with red ----- .50	9.4—MME. JULES DESSERT. Cream white ----- .60
8.2—GALATHEE. Flesh white. Late ----- 1.00	9.2—MONS. JULES ELIE. Deep pink. Our most popular pink ----- .50
8.9—GEORGIANA SHAYLOR. Light rose pink ----- .75	8.8—MONS. MARTIN CAHU- ZAC. Dark garnet. The Black Peony ----- .75
8.6—GOLDEN DAWN. Yellow center ----- 2.00	9.2—MRS. C. S. MINOT. Flesh pink with coppery tints - 2.00
8.7—GRANDIFLORA. Late pale pink ----- .50	9.3—MRS. EDWARD HARD- ING. White with golden stamens. ----- 1.00
8.7—JAMES KELWAY. Rose white ----- .50	9.1—MYRTLE GENTRY. Rosy white, suffused with tints of flesh and salmon. One of the finest ----- 2.00
8.9—JUBILEE. Large white. Lacy petals ----- .50	8.5—OCTAVIE DEMAY. Pink .40
8.6—JUDGE BERRY, Delicate pink. Early ----- .75	9.2—PHILLIPPE RIVOIRE. Deep Red. The highest rated red ----- 1.00
8.8—KARL ROSENFELD. Dark crimson ----- .50	7.7—PHILOMELE. Old rose. Collar of narrow buff petals. Some crimson. Tri- color effect. Small flowers .35
9.1—LADY ALEXANDER DUFF. Pale blush pink. Often six blooms on one stem ----- .50	9.0—PHYLLIS KELWAY. Rose pink. Unusual form and beauty ----- 1.00

8.7—PRESIDENT TAFT. Delicate pink. A perennial favorite -----	.50	9.1—SOUV. DE LOUIS BIGOT Bengal rose. A rare color in peonies -----	.75
9.3—PRESIDENT WILSON. Bright rose pink with cupped center -----	2.00	8.2—SUZETTE. Rose pink ---	.50
8.6—PRIMEVERE. Nearest yellow. One of the most striking peonies -----	.50	9.8—THERESE. Immense shell pink. World's best pink --	.50
8.8—RICHARD CARVEL. Brilliant crimson -----	.75	9.1—THOMAS C. THURLOW Salmon fiesh. Rare and beautiful variety -----	3.00
9.0—ROSA BONHEUR. Old rose pink -----	.75	9.4—TOURANGELLE. Apple blossom pink -----	.60
9.0—SARAH BERNHARDT. Deep pink -----	.50	7.4—UMBELLATA ROSEA. Early pink -----	.30
9.7—SOLANGE. Suffusion of buff and pale salmon pink. A real masterpiece -----	.60	8.4—VENUS. Shell pink ----	.50
		9.3—WALTER FAXON. Sal mon rose -----	1.00
		8.5—WALTER KNIGHT. White with carmine edging on petals. Yellow stamens -----	1.00

Meet Two Old Timers

OFFICINALIS RUBRA. The old fashioned red that usually blooms on Decoration Day. The best known peony -----	.40	GRANDMOTHER'S ROSE PINEY. Dark Rose. Late bloomer. One of the most fragrant. Small flowers. -----	.30
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We Like the Japs, Too

Visitors at our gardens when the peonies have been in bloom will recall the Jap type of flower of which Mikado is the best known example. We are adding several new Japs to our plantings this fall but we have grown the following for several years all of which are tried and true varieties.

8.1—CATHEDRAL. Rose pink and pale pink center ----	.50	8.6—MIKADO. Dark crimson with yellow buff center. All plants of this variety descended from the original planting at the Japanese exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 -----	.50
8.5—DEPARTING SUN. Dark rose pink. Two toned petaloids -----	.50	8.8—ONAHAMA. Dark Red --	4.00
9.3—ISANI GIDUI. The best white Japanese peony --	3.00	8.8—OPHIR. Apple blossom pink -----	1.00
		8.3—SNOW WHEEL. White with golden buff -----	.50
		9.0—SOME GANOKA. Dark crimson and yellow ----	.75
		9.4—TAMATE — BOKU. Dark Pink. Very large blooms	6.00

Tree Peonies Grow Like Shrubs

Tree peonies differ from the usual type of peonies in that they bloom earlier than the others and have a woody stem. Our offering in tree peonies is limited to one variety known as Banski. It is semi-double, lilac rose and free flowering. Three year clump at \$3.00. Two year clump at \$2.00. Root division, large enough for planting, \$1.00. The larger plants will bloom sooner than root divisions. Height of tree peonies at maturity is between three and four feet.

New Varieties Introduced at Rockford

There is another class of peonies which is unmistakably gaining in favor, the single type. These flowers consist of five or more true petals arranged around a center made up of stamens with pollen-bearing anthers.

Usually when peony seeds are planted, and after a long wait of seven years before a typical bloom is produced, the result is a single. After a mature plant is produced it may have points of excellence and be worthy of propagation, but frequently it is inferior to the existing varieties and must be discarded.

In 1932 we displayed one of our own introductions, a shell pink named in honor of Dr. Powers of Grand Rapids, who through her enthusiasm for this type of bloom encouraged us to increase our stock.

DR. POWERS. Shell pink	---	\$1.00
NORMAN THOMAS, Red.	---	1.00
MRS. V. W. KRAUSE. Coral		
pink	-----	6.00
K-49 UNNAMED. Deep pink	--	6.00

This year, for the first time, we displayed a large single red, — such an outstanding red it has been christened Norman Thomas. In 1939, early visitors to our gardens may see a color that is rare in peonies, a coral pink which we believe has unusual merit. It is named for Mrs. V. W. Krause of Rockford.

The newest single seedling in a deep pink color, is unnamed and grown under number K-49. It will be given a name by a special committee appointed by the Kent Garden Club of Grand Rapids. We must follow tradition and remain somewhat conservative in our descriptions, but it should be recorded that K-49 has several spectacular qualities. We will have several mature plants next season.

PRIDE OF LANGPORT.	
Originated by Kelway of	
England. Pale rose pink	- 1.00
KELWAY'S WILD ROSE. Wild	
rose color. Carmine dots	1.00

13 Varieties of Shrubs Available

At the V. W. Krause place south of Rockford we are growing a block of well known shrubs. All are two years old, bushy and well grown. This planting must be thinned. It is already too crowded. If you need a selection of shrubs please check over our list. Price .40 each or three for \$1.00. Smaller sizes .20 each or six for \$1.00.

The varieties,—

CORALBERRY.
CYDONIA JAPONICA.

FORSYTHIA FORTUNEI.
SPIREA ANTHONY WATERER.
SPIREA FROBELI.
SPIREA THUNBERGI.
SPIREA VAN HOUTTEI.
TAMARIX AFRICANA.

This group of shrubs is priced at .50 each.

BEAUTY BUSH.
FLOWERING ALMOND.
CORNUS RED BUD.
VIBURNUM TOMENTOSUM.
WEIGELIA LUTEA.

Small Barberry Plants at Low Cost

Barberry, widely used as a hedge plant, is available in small sizes. If you can use barberry measuring about a foot in height and are willing to wait for them to mature,

the price is .12 each. The 12 to 15 inch size .20 and the largest size we grow measuring about two feet is 30 cents.

Wisteria Vines at a Quarter

The only vine we have attempted to propagate is the Japanese Wisteria. These plants are not seedlings

but have been taken from blooming parent vines of our own. Thrifty yearling plants at .25 each.

An Old Favorite "Rescued From Oblivion"

When an alert newsman scented a story in our backyard planting of Double English Violets, he fired the shot that was heard literally around the state.

Following the appearance of the story by D. L. Runnells in the Grand Rapids Press there arrived a stack of inquiries from Detroit, Les Cheneaux Islands and Sturgis, Michigan and from scores of towns and villages within this geographical triangle.

Several inquiries were received asking if the plants were for sale; two or three were letters of reminiscences from people born in England who cherish memories of the fragrant double violets in English gardens and one enthusiastic correspondent voiced volumes of praise and gratitude for "rescuing the English Violet from utter oblivion!" Every letter and postcard brought messages of good will and approval. We are perennial believers in the

theory that flower lovers are human, enthusiastic and friendly.

There is apparently so much interest in this old fashioned flower that we are including it in our peony list. Violets may be moved either during the spring or fall with excellent results. We grow them in both shady and sunny locations. Nurserymen and other authorities recommend violets for the troublesome shady places in the garden and on the north side of buildings where most perennials refuse to thrive. In our own experience we have found bone meal to be the best fertilizer.

Double English Violets are perfectly hardy anywhere. They are extremely fragrant and produce a profusion of bloom. We ship by mail, carefully packed, at \$1.50 per dozen. No additional charge for packing or postage. Larger quantities by mail or express, prepaid at \$10.00 per 100. All plants are strong and vigorous.

Chinese Elms Grow Rapidly

Lest anyone raise the question of trees, let it be quickly recorded that we offer one variety in two sizes. The tree in question is the

very popular CHINESE ELM. Baby ones with bushy tops .15c. Bigger ones measuring about five or six feet at .35.

When Old Plants Refuse to Bloom

Here is a question we frequently hear:-

"I have a peony in my garden that has not had a blossom on it in seven years. What is the matter with it?"

Our reply usually is as follows:-

"There are three probable causes why peonies fail to bloom.

1. "Peonies planted in the spring usually refuse to blossom. Always plant peonies in the fall.

2. "If you transplant peonies be sure to divide the clump. Planting

an entire clump without dividing the roots is very much the same as planting an entire ear of corn in a hill instead of only a few kernels. If a peony requires transplanting or moving divide the root system in about three pieces. Otherwise it may fail to blossom.

3. "Deep planting of roots is a common mistake. Plant the root divisions so the eyes or buds are an inch and a half below the surface of the ground. A depth of two inches is not too much, but a depth of four inches is way out of the question."

Name Your Own Iris Varieties

Garden Clubs interested in community projects of beautification may purchase about ten varieties of irises including Ambassadeur and Lent A. Williamson at \$2.00 per 100 rhizomes.

If you can use dwarf, May flowering irises, the real early one, we offer a limited supply at eight for a quarter.

New iris varieties are obtained

by planting the seed. We have several dozen young plants which have never bloomed but are due to flower during the coming season. We cannot tell what the colors will be, but those who may be curious as to what the seedlings will yield may secure single rhizomes at a dime or three for .25. We have had some really spectacular results with peony seedlings, but nothing of merit from iris seedlings.

See Evergreens Before You Buy

During the month of June when the peonies are in bloom we receive literally scores of inquiries about EVERGREENS from the visitors to our gardens. We have decided to dispose of some of this material which has been grown purely as a hobby. It is impossible to give a detailed description of the varieties or to even price the specimens individually. The planting consists almost entirely of young plants representing SPRUCE, JUNIPERS, and ARBOR VITAE. Purchasers may select the specimens they want, in fact we do not care to dispose of EVERGREENS unless the purchaser personally inspects the planting.

The assortment includes the fol-

lowing varieties which range up from 60 cents each according to size and scarcity.

BLUE SPRUCE.

GREEN SPRUCE.

BIOTA AUREA NANA.

PFITZER'S JUNIPER.

SAVINS JUNIPER.

JUNIPER HORIZONTALIS.

PULMOSA RETINOSPORA.

PULMOSA RETINOSPORA AUREA.

PYRAMID ARBOR VITAE.

JUNIPER MEYERI.

IRISH JUNIPER.

WAUKEGAN JUNIPER.

A Brief List but We Must Have Perennials

This, without a doubt, is the smallest list of perennials ever offered by any grower in North America! Yet we make no apology. The plants have merit and in our opinion bear the earmarks of quality.

We offer,—

PHLOX-BRIDESMAID. White with pink eye. One year plants ----- .20
PHLOX — JULES SANDEAU. Salmon pink. Large blooms - .20
PHLOX — 'B. COMPTE. Ox blood red. Two year plants .50
PHLOX — B. COMPTE. Ox blood red. One year plants .20

JAPANESE IRIS. In six colors
Six plants in assortment -- 1.00
DIANTHUS ROSE CUSHION. Good for rock garden or border. Pink flowers. Each -- .20
AZALEA MUMS. One variety of chrysanthemum. Color pink. A mass of bloom ---- .20
ORIENTAL POPPY. Large scarlet flowers ----- .20
ORIENTAL POPPY. Same as above per 100 ----- 12.00
BLEEDING HEARTS. Two year plants. An old favorite .30
ENGLISH VIOLETS. Extremely fragrant, intensely double ----- .15
ENGLISH VIOLETS. Per dozen 1.50

SPECIAL OFFERS

Here we are, going the last mile, in making peonies easy to order!

These special collections are made up of root divisions of standard size. Each variety is listed in this price list. All are familiar varieties.

COLLECTION NO. 1

BARONESS SCHROEDER -----	.50
MARY BRAND -----	.50
MONS. JULES ELIE -----	.50
MONS. MARTIN CAHUZAC -----	.50
EDULIS SUPERBA -----	.35

REGULAR PRICE ----- \$2.35

COLLECTION NO. 1 FOR \$1.25 POSTPAID

-- COLLECTION NO. 2

MARIE JACQUIN -----	.50
KARL ROSENFELD -----	.50
THERESE -----	.50
MME. EMILE LEMOINE -----	.50
FELIX CROUSSE -----	.35

REGULAR PRICE ----- \$2.35

COLLECTION NO. 2 FOR \$1.25 POSTPAID

No exchanges. No substitutions. These are sold as collections and the low prices apply only in these special combination offers.

To Our Neighboring Garden Clubs

We are always glad to loan vases and containers to garden clubs in this area for their flower shows. For specimen blooms green metal vases are available. These measure ten inches in height and they have the remarkable quality of “staying put”. They do not tip over easily. Use these instead of milk bottles! For larger displays we have large earthenware vases finished in both black and white. Height twelve inches. Garden clubs are invited to make use of these vases!

Use Peonies for Gifts

If there are anniversaries, birthdays or other events that call for gifts to friends or relatives during September, October and November, what better gift could we suggest than a collection of fine peonies? On orders used as gifts we will mail the parcels to reach their destination on the dates specified by the purchaser.

Glad To Help You

If we may be of help to you in making a selection of peonies we will be glad to make recommendations which we admit will be prejudiced in favor of our own personal pets and favorites. And if this isn't good salesmanship you will have to admit that it is the height of frankness!

WALTON E. MILLIMAN,
170 Division S.,
Rockford, Michigan

